

# kansas state collegian

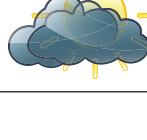
Grant Zizzo | Collegian

Early Sunday morning, lightning flashed over campus as the last few cells of the weekend's storm system passed to the east. The storms assaulted the Midwest with more than 100 tornadoes in the past three days and left at least five dead in Oklahoma.

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monday, april 16, 2012

vol. 117 | no. 135



Wednesday:  
High: 75 F  
Low: 53 F

03

Tennis, baseball, golf...  
Head to today's sports page for a recap of this weekend's events.

04

Power of the president  
Are Americans guilty of blaming the executive branch for the country's problems?

Tornado alley  
How has the weekend's wacky weather affected you? Cast your vote at [kstatecollegian.com](http://kstatecollegian.com).



Tommy Theis | Collegian

Some members of the Philippine Student Association performed a traditional dance with clay pots on their heads. They performed in Forum Hall on Sunday evening for the international talent show.

## International Week concludes with talent show competition

**Madison Debes**  
contributing writer

*Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.*

Performers from the Philippines, South Korea and Japan, among many other countries, sang songs and wore traditional cultural clothing during the International Talent Show, sponsored by the International Coordinating Council.

Some performed traditional dances from their home countries and even performed comical skits at Forum Hall in the K-State Student Union on Sunday.

The talent show wrapped up International Week festivities.

Obair Siddiqui, president of ICC and graduate student in industrial engineering, said that each year, International

Week gets larger as more students from other countries come to K-State. Siddiqui noted that the 50 performers at the talent show was the largest turnout so far.

The talent show is basically the highlight of the entire International Week," Siddiqui said. "We look toward this event throughout the week to showcase our traditional music and dance from our home countries."

Siddiqui said close to 50 performers from areas like Saudi Arabia and South Korea had the chance to showcase their country's music, dance or literary pieces with three skits dispersed throughout the performances.

The skits were comedic and based on the theme of "International Students' Experiences at K-State." Each skit used humor to shed light on the struggles international students face early on at K-State, such as meeting new friends.

The first 150 audience

members were greeted with refreshments at the door and were given a slip of paper that listed each performance. The audience members were judges for the show, choosing their personal favorite performance and marking it on the slip they were given. After the slips were collected, the votes were tallied and the winners of each were announced and given an award.

The audience's favorite song performance was "Courtship Song" by the Philippine Student Association (PhilSA). The performance featured a traditional song using a theatrical display that brought the song's words to life.

Sherryl Namingit, graduate student in economics and member of the PhilSA, said that the "Courtship Song" displayed an important part of the Filipino culture in which men serenade women and their families for the individual that they love. She said

she thought it was good that K-State students were able to see that Filipino tradition.

"It's important to celebrate diversity," Namingit said.

"We should try to learn more about each other's culture to

**"Being able to experience different cultures is an educational experience. But it is also exciting and fun as well."**

**Alexander Lu**  
junior in regional and community planning

better know one another."

Audience members voted that their favorite dance performance was the "Traditional Dance" also performed by the PhilSA. This dance left audience members in awe as graceful women effortlessly danced to Filipino music

while simultaneously balancing pots on top of their heads.

"The pots are traditionally used in the Philippines for fetching water from the streams," Namingit said.

"Many times the women are carrying babies in their hands and need to place the pot on top of their head to transport the water."

Alexander Lu, junior in regional and community planning, said he was glad he attended the talent show and thought it was interesting to see the variety of performances that were showcased at the talent show.

"I can't choose a favorite," Lu said. "I thought PhilSA singers were great. At the same time, I also thought Kevin Tran had an excellent performance."

Tran, special undergraduate open option student, performed a dance for a medley of songs, most of which were dubstep.

Lu said that he thinks it is

important that K-State participates in international week to recognize and celebrate the various cultures present on the campus.

"Being able to experience different cultures is an educational experience," Lu said. "But it is also exciting and fun as well."

The talent show ended with a finale for the international week in which the ICC displayed a video looking back on the previous year of the organization.

The ICC presented an award to the Sri Lankan Students Association for being the most active student organization with the ICC. The group also recognized and presented certificates to the ICC board and members that helped make the international week a success.

"We as a team, put effort and time into each event," Siddiqui said. "We gave each event the same amount of attention and focus."

## Groups raise money for cancer research

**Jakki Thompson**  
assistant news editor

As many K-State students, professors and community members began to set up tents on the Memorial Stadium field, the Relay for Life events kicked off on Friday night at 6 p.m. People walked around the track as many times as they could in a 12-hour block of time.

"Overall, I think it is going really good," said Katlyn Klingler, resident of Leavenworth, Kan. "For our actual group, we have raised more than \$3,000. By the end of the night, we hope to definitely raise more than \$4,000 for this cause."

Relay for Life is an event to help raise money for cancer research. The event on Friday consisted of teams where members from each team continuously walked around the Memorial Stadium track.

Klingler was a member of Team Barbara. Karilyn Inch, sophomore in animal sciences and industry, lost her mother, Barbara, to breast cancer. Klingler went to high school with Inch and is friends with her.

"[Barbara] had impacted so many people's lives," Klingler said. "It is really cool seeing how many people came together on her team in memory of her."

More than 50 teams participated in Relay for Life this year, including fraternities and sororities. There were also student groups, including the American Criminal Justice As-



Courtesy photo

K-State Air Force ROTC Cadets take a break outside their tent at the Relay For Life event on Friday evening at Memorial Stadium. K-State Air Force ROTC spent 12 hours at the event.

Back row left to right: **Erica Iversen**, junior in park management and conservation; **David Sage**, sophomore in international studies; **Anna Baughan**, sophomore in communication sciences and disorders; **Carl Minix**, freshman in history; **Labrina Kelly**, junior in elementary education; **Quincy Whitham**, junior in geography; and **Austen Mundell**, junior in history.

Front row left to right: **Jesse Jenkins**, junior in history; and **Noelle Remy**, junior in sociology.

sociation and the Little Apple chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary.

"We had sold cookies in Van Zile, Derby and Kramer Dining Centers throughout the week," said Joseph Sheppard, member of NRHH and junior in theatre, mathematics and German. "But it has been going much better

selling cookies here at the actual event. This is how we are raising money for our team."

Sheppard said he did this for his family and for the greater cause. He said his grandmother has survived breast cancer and his uncle has survived skin cancer. Another member of the NRHH team was Daniel

Czerniewski, NRHH Awards, Inductions and Reception committee chair and senior in mathematics and applied science, said he has been participating in Relay For Life since high school.

"A few years ago, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer," Czerniewski said. "This cause has always been important to me, and the research that has been going into it for many years. Even though I have been a part of this for many years, it finally is someone I know."

The Relay for Life event at K-State had many activities to keep people energized about being there for 12 hours, including a frozen shirt contest and Monster pong, similar to beer pong but played with Monster energy drink.

"This is a much smaller event than I am used to," said Kassie Albert, Leavenworth, Kan., resident. "I am used to go to the Relay for Life event in Leavenworth, which is much bigger, but this one still seems pretty successful. They constantly have something going on."

Teams had raised approximately \$38,000 by the end of the event, via fundraising, requests for donations and receiving donations per each lap walked.

"It went well," Czerniewski said. "There are a lot of teams out here. Many people raised money in many various ways, and overall it seemed like it was quite successful."

## Student says goodbye to Coffee Hour Series

**Karen Ingram**  
staff writer

A special Coffee Hour presentation was held at the International Student Center on Friday afternoon. It was special not just because it was the last presentation of the semester, but also because it was the last one for Sarinya Sungkatavat, graduate student in hospitality management and dietetics.

Sungkatavat, who gave a presentation on her homeland of Thailand, has been helping with the Coffee Hour Series for four years. The Coffee Hour Series has had a regular event at K-State since 2001, according to Sungkatavat. The program allows students from foreign countries to teach others about their homeland and culture while attendees learn and enjoy free refreshments from the country being represented.

Sungkatavat said she has attended about 40 Coffee Hour presentations in her four years with the series.

During her time with the program, Sungkatavat said the presentations have grown from drawing about 30 people to filling the main room at the International Student Center to its capacity of 99 occupants. Sometimes, they even have to turn people away because there are too

many for the room. There has been talk of moving the Coffee Hour Series to another location, but it is difficult to find a room with access to a kitchen, and too many people would jeopardize their ability to provide the program to K-Staters for free. It is good to keep the program small for a good atmosphere, Sungkatavat said.

"They get the value of what we're doing," Sungkatavat said. "You get a lot of things out of the program — friendships, culture."

Ariel Anib, senior in criminology, has been attending the Coffee Hour Series regularly for about two years and also remarked on how the crowds have grown in recent times.

"I love it because it's fun getting to learn about other countries," Anib said. "It's nice to see people represent their countries."

Sungkatavat's presentation on Thailand provided information on everyday life, school, religion, language and more. She invited the audience to stand while Thailand's national song was played, which she said is done twice a day in her country. She periodically asked questions of the audi-

COFFEE | pg. 6



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- 1 Use the couch
- 4 Fidel Castro, e.g.
- 9 Picks out of a lineup, briefly
- 12 Japanese pond carp
- 13 Last Greek letter
- 14 Ultra-modernist
- 15 Office-holder
- 17 Pitcher's topper
- 18 Apiece
- 19 Merman and Mertz
- 21 Label founded by Clive Davis
- 24 Gets a gander at
- 25 Fellow
- 26 Pvt.'s superior
- 28 Takes five
- 31 Snapshots
- 33 Finish

35 Willy Wonka's creator

36 Narrow cuts

38 Sleuth, for short

40 Born

41 — moss

43 Fed well, as a Biblical calf

45 Twist in pain

47 Mrs. McKinley

48 Coloration

49 Rainy, perhaps

50 Hostel

55 Surround

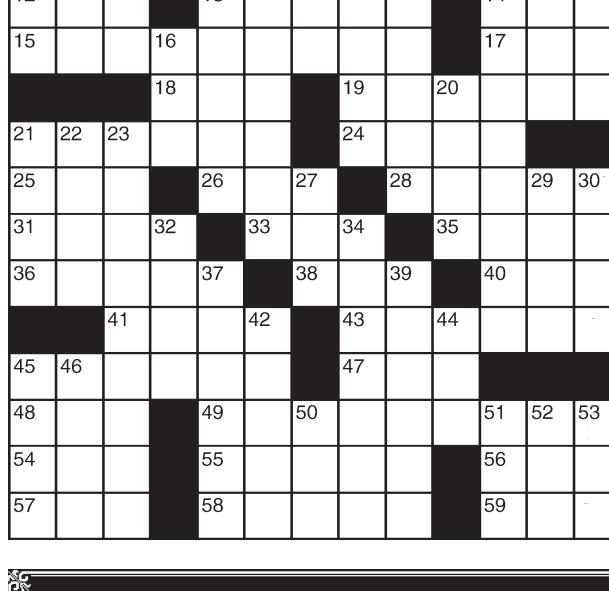
56 Sticky stuff

57 Encountered

**Solution time:** 24 mins.

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Saturday's answer 4-16



## For the Win | By Parker Wilhelm



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Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF I SCOFF AT A PERSON WHILE I'M STANDING ON OAK OR MAPLE FLOORING, AM I MOCKING ON WOOD?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals T

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**Emily Relph** @erelph 59m  
Loved the article about bone marrow donor matches in Salina! Someone bring the "Give a Spit" drive here please! #theforum

**Chloe Boudreux** @THIChloe 9h  
We all a'travelin to emporia this weekend, got some birthdays to celebrate! #theforum

**Ryan Aeschliman** @RyanAes... 23h  
We have English teachers who at some point in their lives made a lolcat or meme.  
#thisiswhytheyrebeatingus  
#theforum

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Hashtag your thoughts with  
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Your tweets must be unprotected.

# sports

page 3

kansas state collegian

monday, april 16, 2012

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

# Team ends 6-match losing streak

Haley Rose  
staff writer

The K-State women's tennis team put an end to its six-match losing streak on Friday, taking down the Iowa State Cyclones 4-3. The Wildcats have now won 19 of the last 20 encounters between the teams.

After capturing the doubles point from No. 1 and No. 3 doubles teams, K-State went on to win at No. 1, 2 and 5 singles. After moving up three spots in this week's NCAA rankings, the now No. 29-ranked Petra Niedermayerova beat her opponent in straight sets at the No. 1 singles spot, along with her No. 1 doubles partner Karla Bonacic, who did the same against her singles opponent in the No. 2 match.

Carmen Borau Ramos fought into a third set and came out with a hard-won victory at No. 5 singles, coming back after losing the second set 4-6.

The victories continued through the weekend for the team, as they beat the NCAA No. 45-ranked University of Missouri 4-3 in hard-fought singles play on Sunday.

After losing the doubles point by tallying only one victory from the No. 3 doubles team, Carli Wischhoff and Marketa Trousilova, the Wildcats fought back, taking wins in No. 1, 2, 4 and 6 singles.

Niedermayerova won her match in straight sets, bringing her record to 15-5 for the spring and 5-3 in the Big 12 Conference. Bonacic caught her victory after her Tiger opponent withdrew due to injury after the first set.

No. 4 singles player Wischhoff effectively ended her own five-match losing skid at the No. 4 position, bringing her record to 5-8 for the spring and 3-3 in Big 12 play.

Borau Ramos fought down to the line again on Sunday, taking her opponent down 6-3, 7-5 at No. 5 singles, sealing the victory for K-State.

"The team fought awfully hard this weekend," said head coach Steve Bietau. "Carmen Borau Ramos came through under pressure both days."

The team returns home for the conclusion of their 2011-12 season on Saturday, April 21 at the Wamego Recreation Complex in Wamego where they will face home-state rivals, the University of Kansas. The match is slated to begin at 1 p.m.

"It's good to win a couple," Bietau said. "And we're excited to get home and work on some things and get ready for KU."

## BASEBALL

# No. 5 Baylor sweeps K-State in 3-game conference

**Spencer Low**  
staff writer

The Wildcats knew they would have their work cut out for them over the weekend as the Baylor Bears, ranked No. 5 in the nation according to Collegiate Baseball poll, came to town for a weekend series. All three games were close, but the Bears came out on top each time, earning their 17th, 18th and 19th consecutive victories this season. K-State fell to 17-18 overall and 3-9 in Big 12 play, while Baylor rose to 30-7 overall, including a perfect 15-0 in conference play.

On Friday night, in game one of the series, the Bears took a 5-2 win against Matt Applegate and the Wildcats. Applegate, the senior starter, pitched 6.1 innings, giving up four runs off 10 hits, with two walks and three strikeouts. Baylor starter Josh Turley threw a complete game for the Bears, giving up two runs, one earned, off six hits, walking none and striking out six. Applegate took the loss, dropping him to 2-4 overall, while Turley rose to a perfect 5-0.

The game was tied at 2-2 in the seventh inning until Josh Ludy hit a two-run single to give Baylor the lead.

K-State was led offensively by the bottom of the order, as their first five batters combined to go hitless in 20 at-bats on the evening. Senior catcher Dan Klein led the team with three hits. The Bears had more success at the plate than K-State, finishing with 13 hits.

Game two of the series was spread over two days due to Saturday's stormy weather in Manhattan. The game was suspended in the top of the sixth inning with the Wildcats leading



Lisle Alderton | Collegian  
Dan Klein, senior catcher, heads for home plate during the last of a three-game series against Sacred Heart in Tointon Family Stadium on April 7. The Wildcats won 7-0 in their first shutout of the season.

10-8 and resumed on Sunday at noon, and Baylor came back to win a 14-12 shootout.

Four Wildcats had multi-hit games. Junior right fielder Tanner Witt and senior first baseman Wade Hinkle had three hits each, while senior Jake Brown and sophomore Jared King had two apiece. Senior designated hitter Mike Kindel led the team in RBIs with three.

Junior starter Joe Flattery pitched five innings, giving up five runs, four earned, off

seven hits with four strikeouts and three walks. Six relievers finished the game for K-State, with sophomore Johnny Fasola taking the loss, as he gave up five runs in an inning of work to start out the resumption of the game on Sunday.

A six-run fifth inning gave K-State a 10-4 lead, but Baylor stormed back with five runs in the top of the sixth and five more in the seventh to take a 14-10 lead.

A two-run homer by Hinkle

made the game 14-12, but K-State couldn't score again and the teams got ready to play again in 30 minutes on Sunday.

The final game of the series went to extra innings, but three more home runs by Ludy proved too much to overcome for the Wildcats.

Ludy took advantage of some strong winds to center field and hit his fourth, fifth and sixth homers of the year, finishing 5-6 with seven RBIs and three runs scored.

## WOMEN'S GOLF

# Weather cuts down season's finale

**Corbin McGuire**  
staff writer

The K-State women's golf team finished fourth at the weather-reduced Indiana Invitational on the Indiana University Golf Course in Bloomington, Ind., with an 18-hole score of 19-over-par 307.

K-State head coach Kristi Knight said the tournament was a disappointing finish to the regular season but she was not necessarily disappointed in the golfers' play.

"Most days, they are a good putting team," Knight said of her team. "They hit a lot of quality shots; we just didn't hold any putts today."

The tournament was originally set to be a two-day, 36-hole tournament, but play was suspended Saturday due to inclement weather. The tournament was shortened to a one-day, 18-hole format that was played on Sunday.

Knight said she was proud of how her team responded to the stress of waiting around all day Saturday, only to find out the tournament has been reduced to half its original length.

"Mother Nature's plan was for this to be an 18-hole tournament. Younger players can take some big-time experience from this weekend," Knight said. "The greens were pretty rough due to all the rain, but overall the course was in excellent shape. It was a good test of golf today."

On the par-71, 6,477-yard course, the Wildcats finished nine strokes behind the first-place host school Indiana, two strokes behind second-place Ball State and one stroke behind third-place Eastern Michigan.

Junior Whitney Pyle led the way for the Wildcats, shooting a 3-over-par 75 to finish in a tie for seventh place, just two shots behind the first-place spot. Four golfers finished in a tie for first place after shooting 1-over-par 73 to force a three-hole playoff to determine the individual winner.

Knight said Pyle told her after the tournament that she did not feel any pressure from the constrained tournament but felt like she left some shots on the course.

Indiana's senior Kristinni Cain fought off teammate Kate Coons, junior, Ball State's freshman Jenna

Hague and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis' Lauren Kuss, junior, to win the three-hole playoff to complete the Hoosier sweep of the tournament.

Sophomore Gianna Misener and senior Ami Storey both finished in a tie for 16th after shooting a 5-over-par 77, while freshman Carly Ragains and junior Kristen Dorsey came in at a tie for 28th with a 6-over-par 78.

Junior Hanna Ross rounded out the Wildcats' scoring lineup with an 8-over-par 80 to finish in tie for 44th.

The Wildcats' next tournament is the three-day Big 12 Conference Championship in Lawrence, at the Lawrence Country Club and it is set to begin April 27.

Knight said the last two courses her team has played were good preparation for the Big 12 Championships' course, which is similar in layout.

"We've played it one time so they've seen it, that'll help us with practice," Knight said. "The last couple of golf courses we've played prepared us for what we'll see."

## CYCLING

# WILDCAT ROAD RACE FINAL STANDINGS

## Collegiate Men:

Jordan Haffener - 2nd Place

## Collegiate Men A/B:

Michael Allison - 3rd Place

## Collegiate Men C:

Kendall Wiebe - 2nd Place

## Collegiate Men D:

Brandon Jarvis - 1st Place

Andrew Turvey - 4th Place

Ryan Whelchel - 7th Place

## Collegiate Women A/B:

Stephanie Lamb - 2nd Place

## Collegiate Women C/D:

Michelle Kuhn - 5th Place

Lindsey Myers - 6th Place

See [kstatecollegian.com](http://kstatecollegian.com) for more footage of the cycling tournament.

## TRACK & FIELD

# Wildcats exceed tough conditions

Despite strong winds, the Wildcats put up with several good performances in weekend of competition

Adam Suderman  
staff writer

Over the weekend, the Wildcat track and field team split for the second of three straight weekends, with part of the team competing at the UTEP Invitational in El Paso, Texas, and another in Wichita competing in the K.T. Woodman Classic.

For the most part, strong winds and impending thunderstorms made conditions rough in both locations, but the Wildcats competed well in several events.

Senior Martynas Jurgilas provided a highlight in the men's 100-meter dash at the UTEP Invitational. The sprinter came in first with a time of 10.27. Sophomore Carlos Ro-

driguez finished fourth with a time of 10.40.

Senior Mantas Silkauskas continued to add to his season resume with another strong performance in the men's 110-meter hurdles, finishing first with a time of 13.88. Silkauskas also teamed up with Rodriguez, Jurgilas and junior Grant Loescher to finish second in the men's 4x100 meter relay with a time of 40.30.

The Wildcats swept the high jump in El Paso as freshman Alyx Treasure and junior Erik Kynard each came away with the title. Treasure finished with a top leap of 5-9.75 and Kynard won with a jump of 7-1.75.

Richelle Farley came away with a third-place finish in the women's 100-meter hurdles with a time of 13.86. The junior was also a part of the women's 4x100 meter relay team that finished sixth in a time of 47 seconds. The group included senior Tiara Wapple, junior Samantha McKnight and sophomore Erica Twiss.

An already strong outdoor season continued for Ryan Hershberger with another title in the discus. The sophomore finished first with a throw of 169-2.

The Wildcats finish the split portion of their schedule next weekend with part of the team headed to Walnut, Calif., to compete in the Mt. SAC Relays and the other headed to Lawrence for the Kansas Relays.



**\$4 Meals**

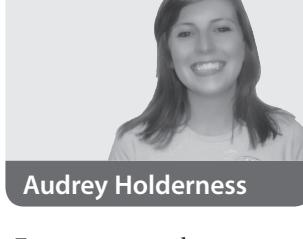
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**601 3rd Place**

## Donating blood relatively painless, benefits millions of people



Audrey Holderness

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood — meaning that in the time it takes you to read this sentence, at least one person in this nation needs a blood transfusion.

One donation of blood — one pint — can save up to three human lives.

So many people don't understand the dire need for blood in this country. The American Red Cross supplies 40 percent of the country's hospitals with the life-saving blood they need, and they get 80 percent of their blood from mobile blood drives, just like the one hosted at the K-State Student Union and Putnam Hall tomorrow through Friday.

The blood drive at the Union will run Tuesday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The drive in Putnam will be Tuesday through Thursday from 3 to 8 p.m. There is also a competition between greek houses and a competition for residence halls in relation to the amount of donors

and volunteers per living community.

Less than 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood due to restrictions for

ever been in a car accident or had a major surgery or an illness requiring a blood transfusion?

More than likely, someone you know has either needed a blood transfusion or will need one at some point in their lives.

There are many people in the U.S. who can give blood, but choose not to. These people are an untapped resource, so to speak. If you have never given blood before, I strongly encourage you to do so. In my experience, the American Red Cross staff are very knowledgeable, friendly and gentle. I

this subject is that if roles were reversed, and I was the patient in need of blood, I would have wanted someone to wait the extra time to save my life.

There are some perks to being a blood donor besides just saving lives. Not only do you get a pretty sweet T-shirt just for attempting to donate, but you also get to eat your fill of donuts and cookies.

Another unique aspect of blood donation that is mostly for men, though some women do qualify for it, is the ALYX Machine. The ALYX machine collects only red blood cells and returns the rest of your blood components, platelets and plasma, to the donor.

The machine takes twice as many red blood cells than they usually do from a regular whole blood donation.

donate through this method.

Many people I talk to express a genuine fear when it comes to blood donation. There are so many people that are afraid of needles.

Readers, I'm not going to lie to you, the needle sort of resembles a Capri Sun straw. However, an easy fix to this issue is to never look at the needle. If you completely ignore it, most of the time, the process is pretty painless.

Another way to make blood donation much easier is to drink plenty of fluids. The human body is around 70 percent water. If you load up on the H2O, your blood will come out of your arm quicker than you ever thought it could.

Also, after your donation, remember to keep drinking water to replace the fluids you just donated.

I understand that the thought of giving blood makes many people squeamish and uneasy. But to me, the thought of depriving someone of a life-saving tool simply because I was scared turns my stomach more than a Capri Sun straw-sized needles ever could.

**Audrey Holderness is a junior in agricultural communications and journalism. Please send comments to [opinion@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:opinion@kstatecollegian.com).**



blood donors, including travel

restrictions and low iron levels, which can be a problem especially for women. Iron levels are tested by a simple finger prick pre-donation, and the Red Cross recommends eating iron-rich foods like red meat, spinach or enriched grains to help raise low iron levels. According to figures collected by the American Red Cross in 2006, around 5 million patients receive blood in the U.S. yearly. Have you or anyone close to you

given nearly one gallon of blood in my lifetime and have never had a problem.

The only complaint that I have with blood drives, and I know other donors share this with me, is waiting. Sometimes, you have to wait for very long periods of time before you get to start the donation process.

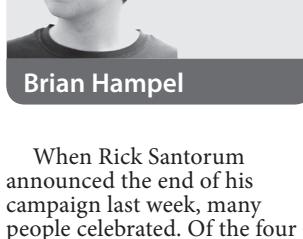
However, Kristi Ingalls, senior blood donor recruitment representative for the American Red Cross, has chosen to take steps to remedy this situation. To decrease wait time for walk-in appointments, she has decided not to schedule appointments during high traffic times, like when most people have breaks between their classes.

Despite this, my feeling on

Since more blood is taken from the donor than the average donation there are certain height and weight requirements for the ALYX machine to allow for proper recovery. That's why many men are encouraged to

Illustration by Eric Logan

## Santorum criticism illustrates tendency to overestimate executive power



Brian Hampel

When Rick Santorum announced the end of his campaign last week, many people celebrated. Of the four Republicans left, Santorum was probably the easiest for liberals and moderates to hate.

Compared to Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul and Mitt Romney, Santorum's religious views and social conservatism are easily the most extreme. For example, the infamous term "santorum," popularized through Google, was coined in protest of his remarks that same-sex marriage was equivalent to pedophilia and bestiality. The left and middle wings have obvious problems with his views and how they would impact his presidency, but if anyone really thinks Santorum's presidency could have made America an ultra-conservative paradise of family values and creation science, they overestimate the actual influence of the president.

For all of Santorum's extreme opinions, the likelihood that any of them could become law under his presidency is slim. The president has Congress and the Supreme Court to deal with. If President Santorum wanted to initiate his "war on porn," he couldn't do much more than ask Congress to introduce a bill and try to persuade people to join him. Even if a war on porn were to gain momentum, the Supreme Court could probably take away its teeth on the grounds of the First Amendment.

Other pet issues of Santorum's, like his belief that the Constitution doesn't guarantee

a right to privacy or his odd obsession with reproductive issues, would run into the same troubles with the other two branches of government.

Rick Santorum has been criticized for seeing the federal government as a tool to enforce the personal beliefs of Rick Santorum, and I think that's a very fair, accurate criticism. However, I doubt that would be the criticism that would apply to Santorum as a president. In America, we tend to give the president too much credit for the affairs of the nation, and we really ought to stop giving blame or credit to the commander-in-chief every time something happens.

If my memory serves, Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama have all had to put up with the blame/gratitude cycle. Bush, for example, received immense amounts of personal blame for the Iraq War, which might be fair considering that he and his administration called on Congress to authorize the war, but he also took flak for not setting an exit strategy and for the dragging length of the war and budgetary problems. Bush was also blamed for the economic crisis in 2007, simply because he was president during the collapse and the

years leading up to it. You could say that some of it was a little bit Bush's fault, maybe because he signed

anyone in the government. What could the president have honestly done about it? What executive order would

successor, John McCain. If a Republican was in office when something bad happened, somehow, the answer must be to elect someone from the other party. We evidently believe that presidents have the power to shape the economy.

President Obama seems to be getting similar flurries of blame whenever something bad happens, at least as bad as the blame game from Bush's term.

The lackluster economic recovery, the continued wars in the Middle East and even the resurging gas prices are all routinely blamed on Obama.

Oil might be a globally-traded commodity with prices influenced by large-scale supply and demand, but nevertheless, someone somewhere is apparently convinced that gasoline would be cheaper if someone

more conservative had won the 2008 election.

No matter how you feel about President Obama, the compromises he has

had to make during his presidency illustrate how little the president can shape the government machine.

For example, he went

into the healthcare discussion bargaining for a "public option," a government-backed insurance program for the uninsured, but what he got was the "individual mandate," a requirement that everyone be insured by a private insurer. The process of working with Congress watered down even the comparatively moderate goals Obama set. Still, that didn't stop the law from being branded "Obamacare" as though it were his master scheme.

Santorum isn't even a candidate anymore, and he's already getting blamed for the ridiculous things he would do as president. Even if he believes that privacy in the bedroom isn't protected by the Constitution, how many states or Congressmen could he hope to recruit for that battle?

The president simply doesn't have the power to make things happen on a whim.

The real issue proposed by someone like Santorum isn't the laws he would make as president; the issue is how he would shape the national conversation simply by being at its center. Even if Obama's vision was compromised, he made healthcare a priority during his term and, for better or worse, helped usher in the first major reform in decades by talking about the need for it.

Rather than talking about long-term energy solutions or military power or anything important, Santorum seems like the kind of president who would try to shape the national conversation around his religious beliefs. Even if the president's legislative goals aren't grounded in reality, the detriment to politics would be all too real.

**Brian Hampel is a junior in architecture. Please send comments to [opinion@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:opinion@kstatecollegian.com).**

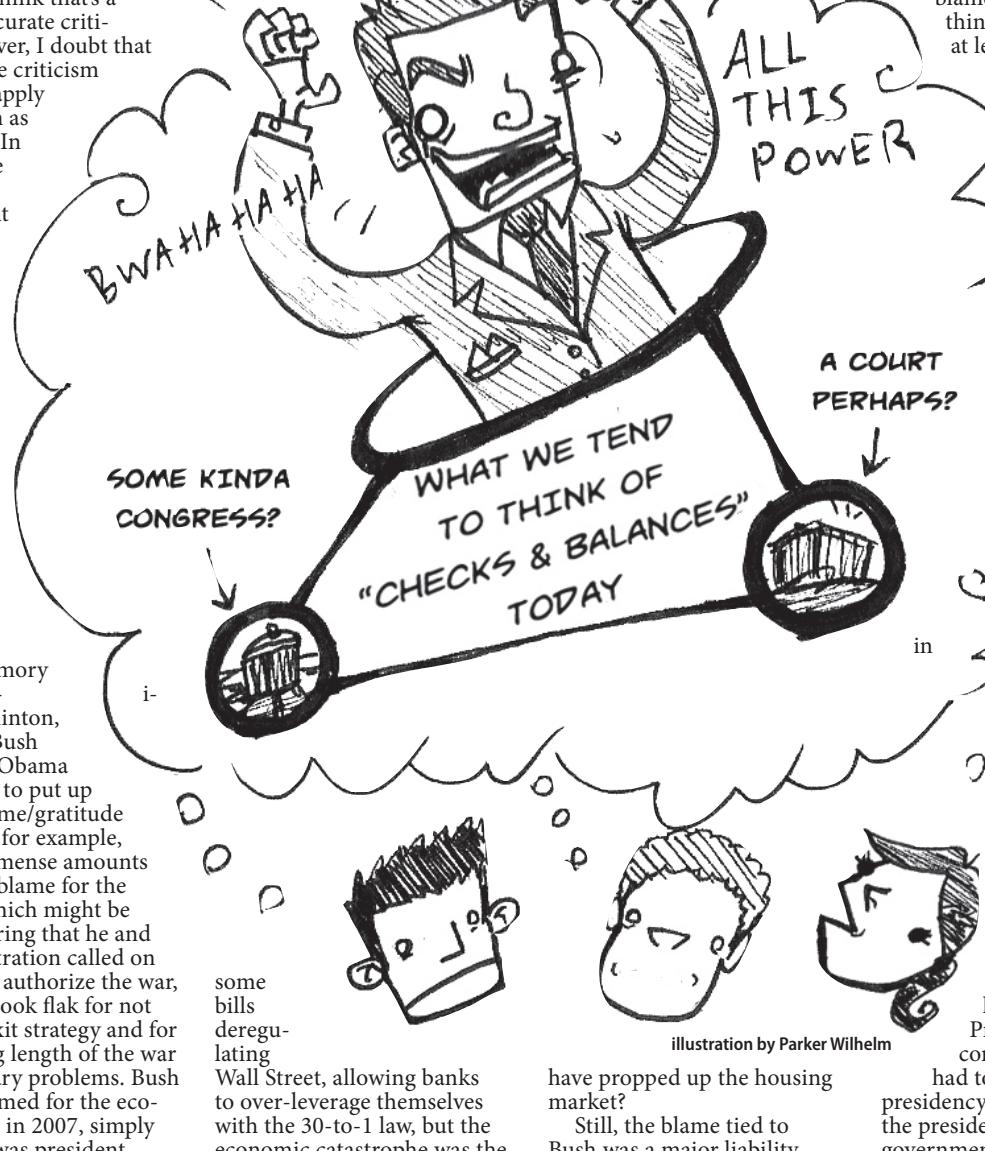


Illustration by Parker Wilhelm

### TO THE POINT

## Cancer research deserves more support

**To the point** is an editorial selected and debated by the editorial board and written after a majority opinion is formed. This is the Collegian's official opinion.

After the Relay for Life event took place this weekend on campus, we wondered how more people could get involved with such a good cause, considering we are on a campus of approximately 24,000 people.

There is no cost to the students who choose to participate in this event, and all of the money is donated to the American Cancer Society to continue the search for a cure for all cancers.

Many people at K-State have been affected by cancer, either by knowing someone who has had

cancer, losing someone to cancer or being diagnosed with cancer themselves.

K-State's Relay for Life event had more than 50 registered teams and raised more than \$38,000. That is a substantial amount of money that goes to a good cause, but it breaks down to less than \$2 per student enrolled. There is no reason why more students were not involved and more money was not raised on a campus with such a great sense of community.

As a K-State community, we can help society at large gain answers and help combat different types of cancer. K-State conducts research at both the graduate and undergraduate levels at the Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research, located on campus. Cancer research is something

that hits close to home for many K-State students, faculty, staff and supporters.

An easy way for more community members to get involved is to form a team and to take a stand for something that affects all of us. At the next Relay for Life event, we encourage you to register a group of friends, coworkers or family members and walk around the Memorial Stadium track to raise money and awareness for this cause.

Another opportunity to support cancer research is coming up on Friday and Saturday. Business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi is hosting a two-day barbecue at Ray's Apple Market, located at 3007 Anderson Ave. All proceeds from raffle ticket sales will be donated to the cancer research center.

### This week's question:

Since the tornadoes missed Manhattan on April 15, does that change your attitude toward future storms?

- 1 No, I am invincible
- 2 I will be more cautious, but I am not too worried
- 3 Yes, I am building an underground panic room

To cast your vote, head online to [kstatecollegian.com](http://kstatecollegian.com).

### Last week's results:

Do you think President Obama's "Affordable Care Act" is beneficial for students?

- |                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 Yes                                 | 53% (70) |
| 2 No                                  | 41% (54) |
| 3 There is now way to tell until 2014 | 5% (7)   |

Total number of votes: 131

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advertising

page 5



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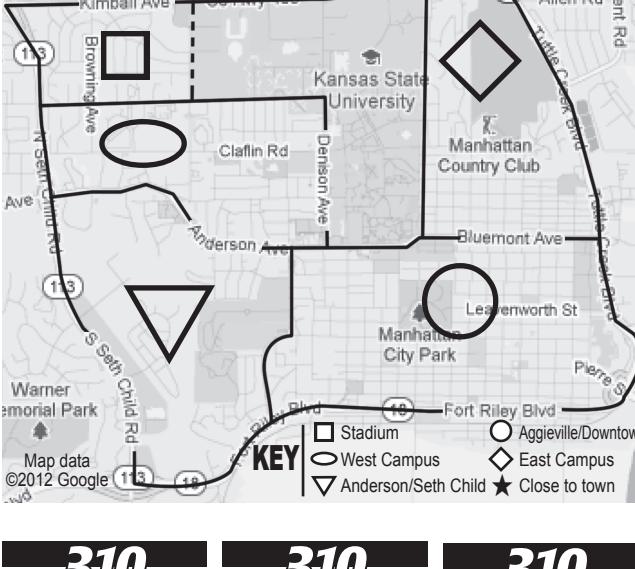
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Go to Kedzie 103  
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**000**

Bulletin Board

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LEARN TO FLY! K-State Flying Club has three airplanes and lowest rates. Call 785-562-6909 or visit [www.ksu.edu/kscf](http://www.ksu.edu/kscf).

**100**

Housing/Real Estate

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Rent-Apt. Unfurnished

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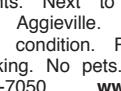
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